Jesus Paid it All

Colossians 2:11-15

I. A struggle for the Christian.

A. To believe that Jesus is enough.

1. We intellectually know He is, but in practice we doubt.

B. 2000 years ago, the church at Colossae was being led to doubt Jesus was enough.

C. The apostle Paul addresses this issue with one of the most powerful declarations of Christ's sufficiency in all of Scripture: The book of Colossians, especially 2:9-15.

II. Who is Jesus?

A. He is God in bodily form, God with us. (2:9).

1. "**In Him**" – Galatians 3:26-28

a. "Baptized into Christ"—Identified with Christ, "clothed in Christ".

b. To accept His sacrifice for payment of our sins.

2. "**In Him**" we are made "**complete**" (2:10).

a. Complete = to be made full – no room for anything else.

b. Only Jesus can "complete"/fill us.

IV. What Christ has done.

A**. Circumcised by Christ** (2:11).

1. The Jewish Law of circumcision was being added to salvation in the Colossian church.

2. Through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, physical circumcision of the flesh is replaced by spiritual circumcision of the heart.

a. Romans 2:28–29.

3. Cut away the sinful things in your life because you now belong to Jesus Christ.

B. **Baptized with Christ** (2:12).

1. Water baptism was a ritual in the Old Testament with the Jews.

a. A ritual cleansing.

2. In baptism we identify with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

C. **He forgave us all our trespasses** (2:13).

1. Jesus makes you alive with Him.

   a. You must be “born again” (John 3).

2. Trespasses and sin.

   a. Sin = “missing the mark”—missing God’s standard.

   b. Trespasses = “false step” – often intentional sins.

3. Key word—"All”.

D. **He cancelled out the certificate of debt** (2:14).

1. Our spiritual “rap sheet” is cancelled.

   a. Cancelled = *wiped off* or *wiped over*.

E. **Having nailed it to the cross.** (2:14).

1. Jesus “nails our rap sheet to the cross”.

2. The “titulus” = A written accusation/offenses placed above the head of the guilty on the cross.

   a. Jesus was guilty of being “The King of the Jews”.

3. Our offenses (sins) are nailed to HIS cross, making Him the payment for our sins.

4. Isaiah 53:5 – He was wounded for our transgressions.

5. 1 Peter 2:24 – He bore our sins in His own body on the tree.

F. **Having disarmed principalities and powers** (2:15).

1. Jesus in His work on the cross defeated the powers of darkness: Satan and his fallen angels.

2. The “already” and “not yet” tension.

   a. Already: Believers have been reconciled to God, forgiven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

   b. Not yet: The full removal of evil, suffering, and Satan’s influence will happen at the return of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Paid it All

Colossians 2:11-15

One of the greatest struggles in the Christian life is the temptation to believe that Jesus is not quite enough…oh… we would never say that…we most likely don't believe that… if you've been raised in the church you certainly wouldn't… you sang hymns like *Jesus My All in All*

Jesus, my Saviour, I love and adore Thee,
Jesus my all in all,
Nothing on earth would I worship before Thee,
Jesus my all in all.

All in All is everything!... it's not Jesus My all and other things too…Jesus my partial… or my most, or my main thing…
Jesus my all in all.
Jesus my all in all,
How it would grieve me if e'er Thou shouldst leave me….*why's that?...because Jesus, you're my* … my all in all…. *You're all I need to be whole.!*

2 Precious Redeemer from sin and from sorrow,
Jesus my all in all,
Jesus the same in the past and tomorrow,
Jesus my all in all.

3 Jesus who died for my sin's precious Master,
Jesus my all in all,
Jesus my comfort in ev'ry disaster…..*I don't need ANYONE OR ANYTHING ELSE*
Jesus my all in all.

4 Jesus my wisdom and righteousness ever,
Jesus my all in all,
Jesus my holiness, failing me never,
Jesus my all in all.

That's beautiful!... but is it true in your life?...Is Jesus Christ really your ALL IN ALL?.. We intellectually know He is enough, but in practice we doubt.

Is there anything in your life that if it was ripped away from you would completely devastate you?...or is there something you are so longing for to have in your life to where you think *If I just had _____my life would be complete… full.*

In a true…honest evaluation of yourself… hey, I had to ask myself these things this week!!...

- We believe in Jesus, but we look for something more.
- We trust His grace… but sometimes depend on our own performance.
- We celebrate His forgiveness, but continue carrying the guilt of yesterday.
- We acknowledge His victory, but live as though Satan still holds the final word.

Maybe none of those touch your life… praise the Lord!... but I would guess that all of us grapple with some form… some degree with these statements…

2000 years ago…The church at Colossae faced this problem. False teachers were attempting to convince believers that Christ alone was insufficient. They were promoting additional religious practices, human traditions, and spiritual experiences.

Paul responds with one of the most powerful declarations of Christ's sufficiency in all of Scripture…. the purpose of this passage is to encourage believers in Jesus Christ to rest in the sufficiency of Christ….

To actually live in the freedom of forgiveness and walk in the victory secured through His work on the cross….

If you haven't done so, please turn to Colossians 2:10-15

Back up to verse 9… who are we talking about?.... this Jesus who **…in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form…** Jesus is God in human form…God with us… so… If you are *in* Him… and He is in you…

let's be clear what "**In Him**" means…Paul uses this term in most of his writings… Galatians 3:26-28 gives us insight into the phrase "**in Christ**" and what it means…. "**In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."**

Paul is speaking to the Christians in Galatia, reminding them of their new identity since they placed their faith in Jesus Christ. ..here…To be "**baptized into Christ**" means that they were identified with Christ, having left their old sinful lives and fully embracing the new life in Christ….repentance…

When we respond to the Holy Spirit's drawing… we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior through faith… He "baptizes" us into the family of God. First Corinthians 12:13 says, "**For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink**."

To be "in Christ" means we have accepted His sacrifice as payment for our own sin….He is our Savior…. so now… verse 10…

Verse 10 is key…**"And in Him you have been made complete…**

Complete… literally *to be made full*… no room for anything else… so why… if we have no room for anything else do we keep searching for something else?...why do we think there is something more that we need to be a complete person?...important…

This is not to say that there are not some things God gives us to help us through life…things that while we are here on earth make life maybe easier, better and fulfilling…that's why God puts us into the body of Christ when we receive Christ… that's why we have spouses… friends… mentors…. godly leaders…teachers…

But none of those things make us complete…. Only Christ can do that. … Only Christ can make us completely "fulfilled"…not a talent… not any possession…not a philosophy… not a friend…not a spouse… not a boyfriend or girlfriend…

The ONLY One who can complete us is Jesus Christ…I've had several discussions over the years with young engaged couples who claim that "*this person completes them*"… *I was only a half a person until I met my soul mate…and now I'm complete… without, I'm incomplete.*

That necklace of a half a heart?... each has a half that fit together to make a whole???!!! … they don't complete you… not to say that if they were removed from your life there would not be a void…how then do you fill that void when there is a great loss in your life?... fill it with Jesus Christ…. but they can't complete you as a person…

The only person who can complete us… give us truly 100% satisfaction and fill the very longing of our soul is Jesus Christ…Paul helps us out in this… *if we are complete in Jesus.. what does that look like?*

What has Jesus done for us… what does He do for us to have completed us?... between verses 11 and 15 there are six phrases that describe what God has done to make us complete in Him…in Jesus Christ.

All these you probably know… I did before I studied for this sermon… by I tell you… to work through them this week was amazing… how hearing these things my entire life… to stop and really meditate on them is refreshment for your soul!

Remember… the reason all this is here is because the Colossians were being told by false teachers and preachers Christ wasn't enough… so Paul says….Christ is enough… Here is what He has done!...Don't add anything else to it.

1. Circumcised by Christ (11)

2. Baptized with Christ (12)

3. Forgiven you all your trespasses. (13)

4. He cancelled out the certificate of debt (14)

5. Having nailed it to the cross (14).

6. Having disarmed principalities and powers (15).

Circumcised…Baptized…Forgiven… Cancelled…. Nailed it…Disarmed…there's a lot here!

1. Circumcised by Christ

Read verse 11

Why is that here in Jesus's argument?... Jewish Law was creeping into the church as necessary for salvation… *Jesus paid it all on the cross but you need to keep the Law*… they were being told that Jesus wasn't enough, they needed to be circumcised….

Genesis 17:12 – "**Every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring.**"

Circumcision may be confusing to some of you…. Why is it here in the New Testament?… Paul brings it up here because many of the Christians in Colossae were Jewish… Circumcision was a covenant that God had made with Abraham in the Old Testament…

Circumcision was required by every Jewish male… after a boy was born… on his eighth day he was to be circumcised… circumcision was a sign that this baby and his family belonged to God….circumcision is a lasting sign… the results of being circumcised lasted a lifetime… it was a lifetime reminder of being in the covenant of God….children of the promise….that's Old Testament *physical* circumcision in a nutshell… without the details.

What Paul is talking about here in verse 11 is that this physical circumcision was a sign and… is no longer required by God…instead… a *spiritual* circumcision… this is a circumcision **made without hands…** what Paul is saying is when we come to Christ by faith…our old life of sin is "cut away" and our new life in Christ begins…our covenant relationship with Him,.

Deuteronomy 30:6 – **Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.** God promises to circumcise the heart…

Romans 2:28–29 – **For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. 29But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter (**Law**); and his praise is not from men, but from God**.

Here's a way to think of it… The Old Testament is the Old Covenant… Genesis through Malachi… God commanded physical circumcision…as a sign… a cutting away of the flesh to show that that person belongs to God… Old Covenant.

In the New Testament… the New Covenant… represents the cutting away of our sinful behavior because we have been bought by the blood of Jesus Christ…

Cut away the sinful things in your life because you now belong to Jesus Christ…

"Circumcision of the heart" refers to an inward, spiritual transformation where a person's heart is purified and devoted to God.

Now in verse 12… having now belonging to Him, Jesus Christ…

2. Baptized with Christ

Read verse 12

I think this is talking about water baptism…why does Paul bring baptism into this?...Baptism also was a Jewish ritual… most Christians think it began in the New Testament… it didn't… baptism was a ritual of cleansing…

The Hebrew Scriptures describe numerous instances where washing symbolized holiness and consecration. Priests were commanded to wash before performing sacred duties (Exodus 30:18-21), and ritual immersion was required to cleanse from defilement, such as after skin diseases or contact with corpses (Leviticus 15:13; Leviticus 14:8-9)

During that period of time between the testaments… the intertestamental period…Jewish communities developed the *mikveh,* a ritual immersion pool used for purification…

Converts to Judaism were required to undergo immersion as part of their initiation, alongside circumcision and sacrifice, to be fully integrated into the covenant community…Baptism.

Apparently the Jewish ritual was brought into the church as a requirement as well… now… we are commanded by Jesus to get baptized after we come to faith in Him…but…when we get baptized we are publicly proclaiming our faith in Jesus Christ…

Going into the water symbolizes "**being buried with Him**"…we identify with the death and burial of Jeus Christ…we come up out of the water identifying with His resurrected life…

In effect we are proclaiming we are dead with our old ways, our old sinful lives and raised to the newness of life provided for by Jesus Christ and now we will follow Him in our new life… remember..

Baptism does not save you…that would be adding something to Christ…. you can go to heaven without being baptized… often I hear someone when asked *are you a Christian"... well, I've been baptized!....* or… *do you know if they are Christians or not?... well, they were baptized!*

Paul is showing us these things for us to see we don't need anything else to make us complete… now.. here are some specifics of what God does for us in Christ…He has…

3. All your trespasses are forgiven (13)

Verse 13 And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh… that's you BEFORE you were saved… Now… through salvation in Jesus Christ…**He made you alive with Him…**

The first thing God does is to bring life to our dead souls… we are all born physically… but we are spiritually dead without Jesus Christ…we must be *born again*…so that we may have life….that's the message in John 3, the story of Nicodemus… Jesus tells Nicodemus he must be **born again**…

That's a decision one must make… to be born again is the result of a decision you must make… to accept Jesus Christ as your Savior…to accept what He did on that cross on your behalf…by faith you come to Christ…. You must decide to put your faith in Him…your decision.

Ephesians 2:8-9 — **"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, so that no one may boast"** "faith" is the means of salvation, and the "gift" is explicitly tied to God's gracious action…do you accept the gift?

John 3:15 says **so that whosoever believes in Him will have eternal life… (John 3:16)**

That which is born of the flesh is flesh…and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit, do not marvel that I say to you, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN….so...(13) **He made you alive with Him…having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions**.

Some of your translations say **Trespasses…**what's the difference between transgressions or trespasses… and sin?... They are related and often used interchangeably… but they are slightly different…The Greek word for sin is *harmatia* it means *to miss the mark*... it's an archery term… you missed the target!... it means to not measure up to God's standard… to fall short, that's sin.

Romans 3:23 **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,…**we all miss the mark.

Trespass, transgression is a different word… *par-aptoma* in the Greek… literally a "***false step***"…often it is understood as willfully disobeying God… it's the idea we see a sign NO TRESPASSING and we trespass (*that's where all the elk are*!)… we looked at the sign and willfully did it anyway… that is trespass.

The willful disobedience of doing things we know are trespassing… *Don't touch !wet paint!...* oh… touch….

What Paul is showing us is really good news… He says through Jesus Christ's grace… ***favor we didn't merit***… ***didn't do anything to deserve***… in fact we didn't deserve it… by His grace… He erased ALL… get that… ALL… every intentional rotten thing we've ever done that is offensive to God… HE HAS FORGIVEN!

Notice the word **all**.

- **Not just the "respectable sins".** A term coined by Jerry Bridges in his book *Respectable Sins*…"Respectable sins" are subtle, commonly tolerated behaviors such as gossip, worry, pride, jealousy, anger, frustration, and unthankfulness—sins socially acceptable yet still spiritually harmful.
- **Not just the sins committed before salvation.** *When we didn't know any better…*so many feel huge guilt because they sinned AFTER they were saved…. *I shouldn't be doing that!*
- **Not just the mistakes we are willing to admit.**
- **Christ offers complete forgiveness to everyone who comes to Him in faith.**

When you come to Jesus Christ HE HAS FORGIVEN US FROM ALL….ALL….ALL our sins and trespasses… transgressions….not just the small one's… the big one's…. ALL OF THEM…

Why do we still live with guilt from past sins and transgressions?... don't we believe this?... has some bad teaching in some church added something to this?... that's what was happening in Colossae.

4. He cancelled out the certificate of debt (14)

Read verse 14a

NIV says this interestingly…

"Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us…

This is the idea of a **hand written list of crimes we are guilty of**…our rap sheet… our moral dept we owe God but are unable to pay… you can picture the all knowing God… meaning the God that knows everything and doesn't forget anything having a record of all of our wrongs… sins and trespasses…which are debts we cannot pay.

Here is the picture of Jesus taking that long list and marking across it PAID IN FULL!...ONLY JESUS COULD DO THAT….actually that word "cancelled" literally means "*to wipe off*"….it's as if your sins have been written on a white board… the board is full of your listed sins… Jesus comes along with an eraser *wipes them off…. What sins?*

The word can also mean to *wipe over…* the idea of whitewashing something that needs painting… the picture here would be Christ's blood washing over us, cleansing us from our sins….

Hebrews 9:14 — "**The blood of Christ… will cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God**."

He paid it for us… By taking the punishment WE deserved… the debts we owed but couldn't pay… and paid it all….cleansed by His blood.

One who said it well… Elvina Mable Hall in 1865

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small,
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."
Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

2 Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

3 For nothing good have I
Where-by Thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

4 And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

Point There is a teaching today that *as long as you stay obedient to Christ, you will remain in Him…well…* that is true… but also if you are in Christ… and you are disobedient to Christ… you remain in Him…

The Colossians…. And many people today were being taught that the second part of that statement is false… that you MUST stay obedient to Christ or you will lose your salvation! NO!!!

... that's Jesus PLUS!... your works…obedience….*you can get baptized as a baby… and as long as you live out the rest of your life in obedience to Christ…. You're saved!...*NONSENSE!!!...obedience doesn't save you… that's a work.

5. Having nailed it to the cross (14).

Read verse 14

He cancelled our debt by paying it for us… He covered our sins by His shed blood, cleansing us … and then He takes that list… the rap sheet and nails it to …not A CROSS…but HIS cross.

Crucifixion…the Roman execution by nailing one to a cross… included a written accusation of the person being put to death…the crime he's being judged for… on a wooden plaque placed above their head…called the Roman titulus (Tie-2-lus) The gospel of John tells us about the titulus placed above Jesus's head in His crucifixion… remember what it said?

Pilate placed the words **Jesus the Nazarene, THE KING OF THE JEWS…** remember what the chief priest tried to get Pilate to change it to?... **I AM THE KING OF THE JEWS…** Why did they want the change?... it was a crime for someone other than Herod to be referred to as King… but it would be even a worse crime to make the claim yourself!

So the picture here in Colossians is that Jesus… takes that certificate of death… all the accusations of our crimes against God… and nails it on HIS CROSS!...our sins listed above HIS HEAD!!!... *He* then dies for our sins!

The cross was not only an example of love. It was the place where our debt was paid.

- Isaiah 53:5 – **He was wounded for our transgressions.**
- 1 Peter 2:24 – **He bore our sins in His own body on the tree.**

Our sins have been nailed to HIS cross… never to be revisited again!...Psalm 103:

As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

I'm glad the Psalmist didn't say as far from the north is to the south… that's 12,436 miles…pole to pole!...there are no poles east or west…it is an infinite distance!...BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SINS HAVE BEEN REMOVED TO INFNINITY!

We will never be reminded of our past again!...why do we remind ourselves?

6. Having disarmed principalities and powers (15).

Read verse 15

Jesus and His work on the cross has defeated the powers of evil… Satan and his fallen angels…As Paul said in Ephesians 6…12 **For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**.

It is in the unseen realm where our battle is…as I said last week… the dark forces of Satan will do anything to derail us from walking in Jesus Christ… but here… Paul is telling us that all these forces are powerless to those who are in Jesus Christ… for He has triumphed over them… defeated them.

The picture here in this verse is that of a Roman general, having defeated the enemy… parades the captives through the streets of Rome… Victory!...no one watching that parade would fear

that enemy again… they were defeated…. Being paraded around as prisoners of war….conquered.

We need to remember that!... as Ephesians 6 reminds us… Satan and his forces are alive and well in the world… but we need to remember that they have been defeated…Christ has already won the decisive victory, but the enemy remains active until the final judgment.

The "***Already and Not Yet***" Tension

Scripture teaches that Christ's reign is inaugurated but not yet consummated

Already: Believers have been reconciled to God, forgiven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit…and victorious over sin.

Not yet: The full removal of evil, suffering, and Satan's influence will happen at His return (Revelation 20:10)….**This means Satan is "on bail"** — stripped of authority but still allowed to operate in a limited way until the end.

But we as Christians are protected by the blood of Jesus Christ… Satan can attack out outer self… but he can't have our inner self…

1 John 4:4

4You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Three questions for personal reflection

- *Am I living as though Christ is enough, or am I looking for something beyond Him?*
- *Am I still carrying guilt for sins that Christ has forgiven?*
- *Am I living in fear of the enemy instead of trusting in the victory of Jesus?*

You are complete in Christ.

You are forgiven through Christ.

You are raised to new life with Christ.

You are victorious because of Christ.

And when Jesus is enough, you don't have to spend your life searching for something more!

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